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THE GREAT OIL FIELD IN ESTILL COUNTY

MOST REMARKABLE SHALLOW DEPOSIT OF OIL EVER DISCOVERED.

The following interesting article covering in a general way the great oil field of Estill-co. is from the pen of a special correspondent of the Courier-Journal:

Irvine, Ky., Jan. 13.—Unwittingly the early mountaineer who put the "stilly" in Estill-co., Ky., overlooked a bet. As he stirred corn mash in the moonlight, he little dreamed there was beneath his retreat in the foothills enough petroleum to convert the world into a ball of flame.

Forgotten now the lure of his "white lightning," for there is flowing daily from the hillsides surrounding this historic little town thousands of gallons of crude oil—a "black lightning" with a "kick" sufficient to drive motor cars throughout the length and breadth of the continent.

Estill-co., of which this booming town is the hub, leaped into the hall of commercial fame during the year just ended. In the nearby steep hills and picturesque valleys, men have found a new El Dorado. Mountaineers of this county who could boast a year ago of naught save a few wooded acres, a couple of goats and a dozen or more children now have bank accounts running into six figures. Oil operators, lured to this section when reports of the Irvine oil pool leaked out, have developed the field sufficiently to know they are working in one of the greatest shallow oil fields in the world.

In the inner offices of Wall street kings of finance, New Yorkers are talking of the Irvine oil field. On the curb they are offering and selling stock in companies organized during the past six months to collect from mother earth the only treasure she has secreted in a reservoir of limestone beneath Estill and adjoining counties of Eastern Kentucky. The market value of wells already developed has led to coining of Estill county a title, "the fifty-million-dollar oil field."

It is all a question of development as to how soon and how rapidly the oil in this field will be converted into money, say operators here. Already the county is as well drilled as a battalion of West Point cadets. In Estill county alone there were completed last year more than 800 wells and in 50 per cent. of them "pay sand" was struck. The Cumberland Pipe Line company, a branch organization of the Standard Oil company, has put down two oil mains leading from the Irvine field to refineries in Pennsylvania. But these mains, taxed to capacity, are able to take only about 30,000 barrels of crude oil a week from the field.

Thirty thousand barrels a week and the wells in the hills about here bubbling a production approximating 150,000 barrels! And each barrel worth \$2.18 per—Is it any wonder the oil operators and simple mountain folk of Estill county are excited?

There are several things needed for further and better progress in the Irvine field, however, according to oil operators and business men of the town. Either a convenient refinery or more pipe lines are needed, they say, to take care of the production already developed. Allied with this need, there are also urgent hopes of "navigable" roads in Estill county and more machinery for further development of the field.

Akin to the commercial phase of the new oil field, which has come as an other indication of Eastern Kentucky's natural wealth, is the story of what it all means and has meant to Estill-co. Irvine has withstood the shock of unexpected wealth remarkably well. The town is not the least "puffed up" at the prominence it suddenly has achieved. The assiduous court paid her during the past year by oil operators and investors has served in no measure to turn to indifference the native hospitality of the people. They figuratively have opened up their arms and welcomed the oil experts, attracted to Estill county from all corners of the nation.

EASTERN KENTUCKY POSTOFFICE BUILDINGS

THE SUBJECT OF WARM DISCUSSION IN CONGRESS LAST WEEK.

In Congress last week the bill appropriating money for public buildings was up and the discussion was quite interesting. Congressman Fear opposed a great many of the items, including the one for Pikeville, on the ground that the population and postal receipts were not sufficient to justify the item, and also for the reason that the maintenance of the proposed new buildings would be greatly in excess of the rent now paid by the government for leased quarters. In the case of Pikeville the annual rent paid for the present quarters is \$332 a year, while the maintenance of the proposed building to be erected at a cost of \$25,000, according to "Treasury Department figures," will be \$2,500 a year, more than ten times, Mr. Fear said.

The Pikeville item was retained. Representative James, of Michigan, called attention to the eleven bills introduced by Representative Langley for buildings in his district. "Here are eleven bills, and I judge the gentleman from Kentucky believes this kind of legislation should go thru," said Mr. James, "but that is simply a matter of opinion between the gentleman and some others. Here are the bills which the gentleman has introduced:—

"Whitesburg, Ky., with 321 people all that is asked for is \$75,000, and all the rest are for \$75,000; McKee, Ky., 146 people; Hindman, 370, Salsberyville, 210; Jenkins, 1,897; Booneville, 238; Inez, Ky., not in the census of 1910; Hazard, 537 people, and Prestonsburg, 1,120 people."

"They are not in this bill, if the gentleman will permit me," said Mr. Langley. "No; but it is not the fault of the gentleman from Kentucky," replied Mr. James. Mr. Langley said: "Oh, yes, it is. I only asked for what I warranted." "I do not believe that the gentleman from Kentucky would introduce a bill either for a pension or a building that he did not think ought to go thru," Mr. James interrupted to say.

"Ultimately, yes; but not all in one lump. The trouble about the gentleman is that he has not been here long enough to know how business is run. He is wasting his time," replied the Kentuckian.

"I sincerely hope I shall be here long enough to see McKee, Ky., because it is to be a public building," said Mr. James. "The gentleman laid a good deal of stress on the fact that Hazard was entitled to a building because they were going to use it for a mine rescue station. Now, they do not establish a mine rescue station as permanent propositions. It was so stated at the hearings in behalf of his bill. They are only put there until such time as the operators or the authorities themselves take them over. So when you give a building for Hazard, Ky., because of it is going to be used for a mine rescue station, you are only wasting your time."

When Barbourville's \$25,000 item "for a postoffice and other purposes," was reached, Representative Fear declared that Barbourville's population in 1910 was 1,633, and its postal receipts last year \$4,532, that the rent now paid is \$406 a year, and that maintenance on the new building will be \$2,800 a year. He said that "for other purposes" was put into the item, and that the \$10,000 appropriation limit for postoffices only, and said that the proposal to use the building as a mine rescue station is a subterfuge.

The Kentucky towns sharing in the appropriations, and the amount they received, are as follows: Barbourville, \$25,000; Central City, \$30,000; Eminence, \$40,000; Falmouth, \$25,000; Hazard, \$40,000; Hickman, \$5,000 for a site; Madisonville, \$40,000; Murray, \$25,000; Pikeville, \$35,000; Pineville, \$5,000 for a site; Russellville, \$10,000 for a site; Shelbyville, \$25,000 for extension of present building and purchase of additional ground, and Stanford, \$5,000 for a site.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where it will encounter determined opposition. President Wilson has given notice he would veto the bill if passed.

ENTERTAINED IN NEW HOME.
Mrs. Victoria V. Prichard was hostess on Tuesday afternoon to members of the flinch club and other friends. There were four tables and progressive flinch was the game of the afternoon. A number of interesting games were enjoyed and at four o'clock Mrs. Prichard, assisted by Mrs. Dora V. Greaver, served a delicious salad course. This, the first party given by Mrs. Prichard in her handsome new home, was a pleasurable occasion to all present. The guests from a distance were Mrs. Walter E. Morris, of Edinburg, Ind., and Mrs. Jack L. Richmond, of Richmond, N. Y.

LEE CITY MAN IS SHOT.
W. L. Nichols, of Lee City, shot thru abdomen, was brought to St. Joseph's hospital on the Lexington & Eastern train. His condition is critical, though the attending physician said early this morning that it appeared favorable. Nichols' story is that he was on the train between Jackson and Cannel City when a passenger, whom he says was Andrew Phipps, alighted and turning, shot him. He said he knew no reason for the shooting.—Lexington Herald.

VISITED OLD HOME.
Mr. William O'Brien, one of the former pioneer citizens of Williamson, but now retired to his country home in Lawrence-co., Ky., is visiting old friends here, who are always glad to see him. He returns to his home today and we wish him all manner of peace in his quiet retreat.—Williamson, W. Va., News.

MOSLEM RITES GIVEN YOUNG ASSYRIAN PEDDLER.

ASHLAND, KY., JANUARY 22.—The body of Samuel Smiley, an Assyrian peddler, who was killed and robbed near Raleigh, W. Va., was brought here, and a Mohammedan funeral service was held over his remains. More than 100 Mohammedans were present to attend the service.

Smiley was 19 years old and had been in this country three years. The Assyrians who attended the funeral all came from Damascus or Jerusalem, near where young Smiley was born. The young man was of the highest character.

SHIP POTATOES FROM ENGLAND TO CHICAGO.

Chicago, January 22.—High prices paid for potatoes on the Chicago market have attracted shipments from England to compete with the American grown product, according to a statement today by Sol Westerfield, former president of the National Retail Grocers' Association. "It seems almost impossible that England at this time can send potatoes to Chicago to compete with the product grown in Illinois, Wisconsin and other Western States, but I have seen the bills of lading," he said. Potatoes on the Chicago market are selling today at \$2.25 a bushel.

MRS. MCCLURE CELEBRATES HER 80TH BIRTHDAY.

The 80th birthday of Mrs. Martha McClure was made a very happy occasion by the thoughtfulness and efforts of her family. Her son Dr. W. B. McClure came from Lexington and spent the day. A number of friends and relatives were invited in during the day, bringing good cheer and congratulations, flowers and other remembrances. Mrs. McClure is one of our finest types of the best motherhood. She entered heartily into the enjoyment of the affair. Mrs. Carrie Adams, granddaughter, who lives with Mrs. McClure, is entitled to much credit for the success of the celebration.

FOUND DEAD IN A CATLETTSBURG HOTEL.

J. Sidney Stone, of Williamson, W. Va., a civil engineer, was found dead in his room at the Alger House in Catlettsburg Wednesday morning. He had been registered there for two days. He was a wife and children.

FALL IN ELEVATOR SHAFT FATAL TO STEVE BACOOK.

Catlettsburg, Ky., January 20.—Steve Bacook was instantly killed today at a saloon by falling down an elevator pit. A wife and several children survive.

A GREAT CHANCE FOR OUR FARMERS

EARLY IRISH POTATOES SURE TO BRING HIGH PRICES THIS YEAR.

A man whose experience and judgment is worth while says that every farmer in this vicinity who will grow five acres of Irish potatoes this year will have from \$1500 to \$2000 in cash to show for it, if the season is fair. In order to do this he must grow the earlier varieties best suited to our soil and climate and properly cultivate and take care of the crop. Send to the Department of Agriculture at Washington and the Experiment Station of Kentucky University at Lexington for bulletins on potato growing. If you want to know anything not covered in these bulletins, write the Experiment Station.

Don't conclude you know all about growing potatoes and do not need any further information. We remember a case of a Lawrence county farmer who attended a farmer's institute at Louisville at the time the first boys corn club was organized. A lecturer told how to prepare and cultivate corn. He said the old method of plowing deep the last time was wrong and did great damage to the corn. Breaking up the roots at this time stops growth until nature can repair the roots and start them again to sending nourishment to the stalks and ears. Surface cultivation only should be done at that time. The farmer or referred to took issue with the lecturer, saying he had been growing corn all his life and did not believe in this new theory. Two of his boys joined the corn club and followed the printed directions furnished for planting and growing the crop. One of them won first prize in the county and the other got a smaller prize. They had raised about 100 bushels to the acre, as we now recall. The father always thought he was doing well to get one-fourth of that amount per acre. He was converted to modern methods. It is needless to say.

The same is true of potato growing, no doubt. He progressive and willing to learn. It pays big. If your land needs some fertilizer or lime, put it on and get your money back ten fold. Now is the time to get your literature, pick out the plot of ground for potatoes, and plan for the season.

We have heretofore explained the basis for believing that early potatoes will be high this season. The north is where most of the potatoes are grown and we can get our crop on the market long before theirs mature. The present shortage insures high prices for early crop.

OIL DEVELOPMENT IN LAWRENCE COUNTY

COMPANIES ORGANIZED BY COL. LABBEE PREPARING FOR BIG YEAR'S WORK.

The following is from the Herald-Dispatch:

That the average Huntington business man would be surprised as well as intensely interested were he set down unexpectedly in Lawrence-co., Ky., the heart of the present oil and gas activities in the Big Sandy valley, was the statement of Col. M. R. Labbee, who was in Huntington yesterday buying supplies for some of the numerous operations in which his companies are interested.

For several months development has been going on at a rapid rate, and leases on both sides of the Big Sandy are being improved by the score. On the Big Blaine, Twin Branch and Morgan creek alone in the Lawrence-co. district, \$500,000 is to be expended at once in drilling operations.

Col. Labbee, who organized the Louisa Coal, Gas & Oil company, of which George P. Daniels, a Cincinnati capitalist is president, is general superintendent and field manager for these extensive operations, including the Crofut Well Oil and Gas company, stated to the Herald-Dispatch last night that Lawrence-co. and adjacent sections of the adjoining counties are now a network of pipe lines for oil and gas, and that hundreds of pumps are drawing high grade oil from wells already drilled in and producing steadily. These wells, as a rule, produce from two to fifteen barrels of high grade oil per day of twenty-four hours.

This field, Col. Labbee states, is also rich in gas which is particularly rich in gasoline properties, and several by-product manufacturing are projected for the coming spring. Many Huntington business men have interests in this field, the holdings of J. E. Thompson, who derives a large monthly income from producing wells, being probably larger than those of any other local man.

Col. Labbee, who has spent several years prospecting and securing leases, is also making plans for extensive developments in Johnson-co. and these plans are already under way to maturity.

He believes that Eastern Kentucky one of the greatest undeveloped coal fields on earth, will become also one of the greatest oil and gas fields—not on account of sensational rusher oil wells, but because of a myriad of small wells, producing eight or ten barrels of high grade oil per day and running consistently for forty or fifty years.

KILLS WIFE, MOTHER-IN-LAW; FATALLY WOUNDS ANOTHER.

Huntington, W. Va., Jan. 20.—Harry Terry, formerly of Cincinnati, tonight shot and killed his wife, Mrs. Lillian Black Terry, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Victoria Black, and fatally wounded his wife's cousin, Mrs. L. M. Spurlock.

Terry was arrested late tonight and, according to the police, declared the mother-in-law and cousin were responsible for a suit for divorce filed by his wife.

DIES AFTER SHORT ILLNESS.

Mrs. Jas. Whitaker died after a short illness of heart trouble at her home at Toll Gate, W. Va. Her body was brought to this place and taken to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. L. Vaughan on Lick creek.

She is survived by her husband and five small children, the youngest only six weeks old. She was a devout christian and member of the Baptist church.

The funeral and burial took place on Saturday and services were conducted by Revs. H. B. Hewlett and S. F. Reynolds, of this city.

STRUCK BY TRAIN.

Ashland, Ky., January 20.—A buggy, occupied by Henry Donta, superintendent of the Boyd County Home, and Mrs. Leander Rhodes, an employee of the home, was struck at the depot crossing by C. & O. train No. 1, and the two were hurled fifty feet, they escaped serious injuries. The horse was so badly hurt that it had to be killed.

F. M. BOOTH DEAD.

Wayne county has sustained the loss of another prominent citizen, F. M. Booth, of Wilson creek, died last Wednesday. He was seventy years old and was well known throughout the county.

MOVED TO LOUISA.

Richard Queen, formerly of this county, and who for a number of years has lived in Catlettsburg and Portsmouth, O., has moved to Louisa, from Portsmouth and is occupying the residence on Main-st. next door to the Baptist church.

ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT.

A company is being organized to put a large electric light plant into Louisa. The next meeting of the city council will be asked for a franchise. It is said a cold storage and ice plant in the same connection is contemplated. We hope the enterprise will be established.

NEW CANDIDATES.

We call attention to new announcements appearing in the NEWS this week as follows: Sam Sturgell, Isaac Adams and Frank Pigg for Jailer and V. B. Shortridge for State Senator.

IMPORTS FROM KENTUCKY AIMED AT BY NEW BILL.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 23.—A bill aimed to stop the importation of intoxicating liquors into the State was today introduced in the West Virginia Senate and House of Delegates. The bill would make it a misdemeanor for any person to bring into the State more than one quart of intoxicating liquor, during a period of thirty days. Common carriers knowingly permitting a violation of the act would be liable to a fine of not less than \$200. Since West Virginia became a prohibition State, large quantities of intoxicating liquors have been brought into the State from Maryland and Kentucky, special trains having been run for that purpose on some of the railroads.

DEATH LIST THREE; OLD CELLS TO BE REPAIRED.

Frankfort, Ky., January 10.—The death list resulting from the fire which swept cellhouse A at the State Reformatory here Monday night was increased to three late today when Will Jones, a negro convict, died of burns received before he was rescued from his cell. The other two victims were suffocated in their cells.

The Prison Commission will repair cellhouse A and use it until the Legislature sees fit to make an appropriation for an up-to-date building. The commission can use \$10,000 for this purpose.

FEARS HER DAUGHTER HAS BEEN KIDNAPED.

Lexington, Ky., January 22.—Mrs. W. E. Watts, of Carbonhill, Ala., fears that her daughter, Mrs. Jewel Turpin, 18 years old, has been killed, kidnapped or met with foul play, on route from Fleming, Ky., to her home via Lexington, and has written to local officials to start an inquiry. The young woman left Fleming, a mining camp near Hazard, on January 12, planning to change cars in Lexington and go on from there to Alabama. Nothing has been heard from her since she left Fleming. A photograph of the young woman accompanied the letter.

ATTORNEY WHITT IS MARRIED.

Attorney Beecher Whitt, who came to Ashland about a year ago from Magoffin county, and Miss Minnie Conn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Conn, of Catlettsburg, were united in marriage Sunday at the home of the bride. The ceremony was performed by Rev. John Litteral of Johnson county. Mr. and Mrs. Whitt will reside in Ashland.—Independent.

DIED OF APPENDICITIS.

Robt. Hayalip, Jr., of Mayvay, Boyd county, died Wednesday of appendicitis. He was the seventeen year old son of Robt. Hayalip.

DEATH REMOVES TWO SUBSTANTIAL CITIZENS

J. M. RIFFE AND J. P. BILLUPS OF ADVANCED AGE, PASS AWAY.

Hon. Jerry M. Riffe, whose illness was mentioned in the NEWS last week, died at his home near Yatesville on Wednesday and was buried on Thursday. He was 81 years old January 8. His wife died only two years ago. He is survived by four sons, W. J. of Ratcliffe, John B., of Louisa, Lee, of Yatesville, and Jerry Riffe, Jr., who lives in the west.

Deceased was a member of the Christian church and a preacher of that denomination. He was also a lawyer and was active and successful in the practice. His influence was always on the side of right. He was one of the pioneers in prohibition work and did effective service in this cause. His death removes a useful citizen, one who had devoted much time to helping others. He was a man of more than average intelligence and information and he used his ability to good advantage. He was born in Carter county but came to Lawrence many years ago and located on a farm near Yatesville. His son, John B. and family of this place, attended the funeral yesterday.

JAMES P. BILLUPS.

James P. Billups died at his home near Fort Gay on Wednesday of this week and was buried yesterday on Tabor creek, near the Billups Gap. Brights disease, from which he had long been a sufferer, caused his death. He was 69 years old, and was a brother of ex-Sheriff John Billups. Deceased was one of Wayne county's best citizens. He was a farmer and stock dealer and had been successful in business. His death is a loss to the community.

MUSIC IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Prof. W. C. Hunter is teaching the rudiments of music in the public schools of Louisa. This is a good move. All modern schools are doing this. The children are entitled to an opportunity to get a start in this accomplishment which plays so large a part in the affairs and refinement of life. The school board should arrange to make it a permanent feature. At present the pupils are paying for the service.

NEW TRIAL GRANTED.

Sarah Day, convicted of poisoning her husband, James Andrew Day, at Enterprise, Carter-co., and sentenced to life imprisonment, was given a new trial by the Court of Appeals. She and Bob Sparks were jointly indicted.